

H E N R Y M O R R I S O N

FLAGLER MUSEUM

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

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For Immediate Release

Flagler Museum Presents *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: American Sculptor of the Gilded Age*

(Palm Beach, FL) -The Flagler Museum's Winter exhibit, *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: American Sculptor of the Gilded Age*, opens January 16, 2006 featuring more than 60 of the sculptor's most famous works - including, full-sized works in bronze, marble and plaster, portrait reliefs, decorative objects, coins and reductions of major outdoor commissions. This outstanding display of the master's work closes on April 15, 2007. The exhibit is sponsored by U.S. Trust, and *The Palm Beach Post*.

One of America's best sculptors, Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907) has been called the "American Michelangelo" as his works are compared Renaissance masterpieces. Born of immigrant parents, Saint-Gaudens created a unique American style that focused on simplicity of subject, realism of form, and strength of emotion. Taking a new approach to sculpture, Saint-Gaudens played an unsurpassed role in developing America's artistic character and revitalizing the art of sculpture in the modern age. While best known for his bronze monuments, his works also included interior decoration for some of the great houses of the Gilded Age, portrait reliefs, medals and U.S. coinage

In his youth Saint-Gaudens created a variety of works beginning with cameos, mural paintings, stained glass, and mixed media decorative panels found in the most magnificent Gilded Age mansions. In his later years Saint-Gaudens was a great portrait artist, creating more than one hundred sculptural portraits. He also accepted public commissions for major war monuments. Saint-Gaudens works changed the public perception of civic sculpture. Saint-Gaudens Civil War-inspired monuments, stand out for their quiet dignity and inherent strength of character.

Saint-Gaudens also created medals and coins. His Special Inaugural Medal in 1905 for Theodore Roosevelt impressed Roosevelt so much that the President asked the master artist to redesign the 1907 U.S. gold coinage. Saint-Gaudens's

designs of the twenty and ten-dollar gold coins are considered by collectors the most beautiful ever created. Saint-Gaudens's popularity and his breadth of work, established him as a leading American sculptor.

Organized by the Trust for Museum Exhibitions (TME), Washington, D.C. in collaboration with the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, New Hampshire, this exhibit has traveled extensively through the United States and has a limited engagement in Florida. The Flagler Museum is delighted to bring such renowned objects from America's premiere Gilded Age sculptor to Palm Beach. The Flagler Museum focuses on events and exhibits like *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: American Sculptor of the Gilded Age* to enhance understanding of America's Gilded Age.

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the New York Herald as "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world." Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs. The Museum is located at Cocoanut Row and Whitehall Way, Palm Beach and is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 5:00 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 13-18, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and children under six are free. For more information, please call the Flagler Museum at 561-655-2833 or visit www.flaglermuseum.us.

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